

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. STATE AND BANGLADESH FINALIZE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

DHAKA, OCTOBER 29 -- Major General Raymond Rees, Adjutant General for the U.S. State of Oregon and Commander of U.S. National Guard air and ground forces for the Pacific Rim is visiting Dhaka. The purpose of his visit is to establish a permanent partnership between the Oregon National Guard and Bangladesh under the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP) at the request of the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division. Major General Rees presented a proclamation from Oregon Governor Kulongoski to Lieutenant General Md Abdul Mubeen, ndc, psc, Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division, affirming this commitment.

The National Guard's State Partnership Program links U.S. states with foreign nations to promote and enhance bilateral relations. The SPP not only promotes military to military relationships but also provides a vast civilian base of professionals for enhanced military to civilian and civilian to civilian exchanges. Under the SPP, more than 50 countries are matched with U.S. states. The partnerships address a wide variety of shared security issues, including border security, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, combat medical training, combating illegal drugs, military support to civilian authorities, peacekeeping operations, and port security. This new SPP is a continuation of the strong bilateral cooperation between U.S. and Bangladesh Armed Forces.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>